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(Received 13 June 1977)

SOME RECENT RECORDS OF PALAEARCTIC BIRDS

IN KENYA AND TANZANIA ¹

The first part of this article was published in *Scopus* 1: 39-43. As mentioned in the first part, only records to June 1976 are included here, later records will be published in the sub-committee's Bird Report due out in early 1978.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS Black-headed Gull
Backhurst *et al.* (1973) give only six records of this species, all from Kenya. Since the invasion of these gulls in 1971/72 it has been regularly recorded from Kenya and coastal Tanzania in some numbers. An account of this change of status is at present in preparation for *Scopus*.

CUCULUS POLIOCEPHALUS Lesser Cuckoo
A few, Sokoke-Gedi, 7 Apr 72 (DAT); 1 Sokoke, 16 Apr 76 (DJP) and 5 there, 25 Apr 76 (JS).

OTUS SCOPS European Scops Owl
Two Palaeartic birds ringed, Naivasha, 23 Feb 75: 110 g, 169 mm wing and 95 g, 156 mm wing (GCB, WPHD, CFM).

CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEAUS European Nightjar
Lake Manyara, 1, 31 Oct 69 (DAT); 1, Dandora 12 Mar 70 (BSM); 1 ringed, Lake Nakuru 31 Oct 70 (DJP, GCB); 1, Lake Naivasha 27 Feb 73 (DAT).
Ngulia Lodge: 14 ringed (caught at night) 12-19 Nov 74. Birds of both the nominate race and the eastern *umwini* were involved. In 1975 only two were ringed, on 27 Nov (DJP, GCB).

LANIUS SENATOR Woodchat Shrike
1, Samburu, 23 Feb 70 (DAT); 1, Bungoma, 28 Jan - 4 Feb 73 (HB).

ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS Tawny Pipit
1 near Garissa, 11 Nov 74 (DAT).

ACROCEPHALUS GRISELDIS Basra Reed Warbler
At Ngulia Lodge, 1971: singles caught 28 Nov, 7 Dec and 12 Dec.
1972/73: recorded most days, 28 Nov - 13 Dec, 36 ringed.
1973/74: most days 24 Nov - 20 Dec, and again 31 Dec; 23 ringed.
1974/75: recorded 27 Oct, then most days 13 Nov - 22 Dec; 54 ringed.
1975/76: most days 27 Nov - 15 Dec; 34 ringed. (GCB, DJP).
Other records: 1 ringed Athi R., 19 Nov 71; singles seen at two localities near Mtito Andei, 13 Feb 73; 1 ringed Watamu, 11 Apr 76 (DJP). One seen Voi, 9 Dec 75, and another ringed there Apr 76 (PL).

¹ Compiled by members of the E.A.N.H.S. Ornithological sub-committee

ACROCEPHALUS PALUSTRIS Marsh Warbler

This is an abundant bird in eastern Kenya on southward passage from Nov to early Jan. Some measure of the numbers involved can be gathered from the fact that nearly 5000 were ringed at Ngulia Lodge during the autumns 1972/73 - 1975/76, and many tens of thousands more seen. The following were presumably wintering: two (one observed in heavy moult) near Mtito Andei 13 Feb 73; one ringed Ngulia (also moulting), 14 Feb 73 (DJP). We have the following spring records: 1 Ngulia, 14 Apr 71 (GCB, PLB); 30 ringed and others seen 23-26 Apr 73 (DJP); 2 ringed 28 Apr 74 (GCB). One in song Athi R. 13 Apr 72 was still there on 18th (DJP). Singles ringed at Kariobangi 28 Apr 72, 11 Apr and 4 May 73, 10 Apr and 25 Apr 75 (DJP, GCB). One of the main migrants in the coastal scrub, Watamu, mid Apr 76, when 18 were ringed (DJP).

HIPPOLAIS OLIVETORUM Olive-tree Warbler

Recorded regularly each autumn at Ngulia Lodge, Tsavo West, where it is one of the earliest species to pass through. We have the following records:

1971: 3 ringed 28 Nov.

1972: 11 ringed and 1 picked up dead 29 Nov - 5 Dec; singles ringed 10 and 11 Dec.

1973: 15 ringed 24 Nov - 3 Dec, and 1 13 Dec.

1974: 19 ringed 12-22 Nov.

1975: 1 ringed 3 Nov, 25 more 13 Nov - 1 Dec, and 2 each 6 and 8 Dec.

130 birds ringed on 14 Nov included 10 Olive-tree Warblers.

Few Olive-tree Warblers have been seen at the Lodge apart from those caught, but an early bird was seen on 26 Oct 75 (GCB, DJP).

Tsavo East, one watched for several hours in the grounds of Voi Lodge, 7 Mar 75 (supporting details received) (BSM).

At Watamu one was ringed on 13 Apr 76 (DJP).

HIPPOLAIS LANGUIDA Upcher's Warbler

DJP comments: based on observations in early 75 and early 76, I would describe this species as widespread, and in places common, in Tsavo and in the thornbush nearer the coast from January to early April (latest date, 17th). It seems to remain in arid bush areas in winter after such species as Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*, Whitethroat *S. communis* and Irania *Irania gutturalis* have moved on. It is also common in *Commiphora* woodland at Voi, where PL and I found it outnumbered 5:1 by Olivaceous Warblers *Hippolais pallida*. At Mtito Andei, high numbers early in Jan 74 and 75 suggested some through movement at this time. I have no personal knowledge of this bird from northern Kenya, where it may well be widespread, but have found it only exceptionally around Nairobi and in the rift valley. The only record from five years' netting at Kariobangi, Nairobi, was on 5 Apr 74.

Recorded annually at Ngulia Lodge, Nov - Jan, some birds passing through late in the passage period. Numbers ringed there are as follows:

1971: singles ringed 23 Nov and 6 Dec.

1972/73: 12 ringed 30 Nov - 7 Jan.

1973/74: 18 ringed 24 Nov - 4 Dec, and another 6, 22-31 Dec.

1974/75: 26 ringed 13 Nov - 13 Jan.

1975/76: 28 ringed 13 Nov - 15 Dec.

Other records: 1 Meru N.P., 26 Jan 73 (OWF); 1 Embu, 7 Feb 76 and 1 Meru N.P. 8 Feb 76 (DJP); 4-5, 12-14 Apr 76, Samburu Lodge (ADF-W).

LOCUSTELLA FLUVIATILIS River Warbler

One of the commonest late autumn migrants coming to ground at night at Ngulia Lodge; the records are summarized as follows:

1971: 1 ringed 23 Nov, 6 ringed and 2 dead 28 Nov, 11 ringed 5-11 Dec.

1972/73: recorded daily 29 Nov - 14 Jan. 171 ringed and 8 picked up dead.

Scattered elsewhere in the Ngulia Hills in late December.

1973/74: almost daily, 24 Nov - 30 Dec, and seen 6 Jan. 159 ringed and 9 found dead in the Lodge.

1974/75: almost daily, 13 Nov - 23 Dec. 255 ringed, 8 found dead. Found at several other places along the Ngulia escarpment, 14 Dec.

1975/76: again regular, 26 Nov - 15 Dec, when 215 were ringed. Recorded at Ngulia away from the Lodge 14 and 15 Dec. Of 1656 birds ringed at the Lodge 5-8 Dec, no fewer than 128 were River Warblers.

This species has not been encountered in numbers at Ngulia before the end of November and seems to be most abundant early in December. There is a spring record of a bird ringed 24 Apr 73 (GCB, DJP).

In view of its autumn status at Ngulia, the infrequency with which the River Warbler has been recorded elsewhere in Kenya and, for that matter, Tanzania, is very surprising. We have the following unpublished records:

Singles ringed Kariobangi, Nairobi, 19 Nov 71, 24 Nov 71, 28 Nov 71 and 13 Apr 72 (DJP, GCB); 1 ringed Athi R. 20 Nov 71 and 1 seen there 12 Dec 71 (DJP); 1 seen Mtito Andei 27 Dec 72 (DJP).

PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA Chiffchaff

1 singing Lake Nakuru 29 Jan 72 (DJP); 1 Cobb Farm, Mau Narok 23 Feb 76 (HP); 1 ringed Nandi Hills 29 Feb 76 (DC); 2 seen in bamboo zone, Mau Escarpment above the headwaters of the Njoro R., 21 Jan 76 (BSM).

CERCOTRICHAS GALACTOTES Rufous Bush Chat

Common annually in Samburu during good rains in Nov. Particularly common there 5-7 Nov 74 when some 25-30 were seen in a single day (DAT). Found wintering commonly in early 76 near the Tsavo R. (Tsavo West), in scattered bush near the Taitas, and in arid bush east of Tsavo (DJP). A few in the coastal scrub belt Feb - Mar 76, with records from Watamu, Sabaki R., the Mombasa area and the edge of the Sokoke Forest (DJP, PA). Birds still present in Tsavo to mid Apr 76, and a marked spring passage noted at Watamu, 10-13 Apr 76 (DJP). In East Tsavo from 4 Nov 75, thereafter common throughout the 75/76 winter as during the previous winter (PL). A regular Nov passage bird to the Mtito Andei area (DJP), but otherwise scarce. Seen there 17 Feb 75 and 28 Feb 76.

Ngulia Lodge autumn passage records are:

1971: 11 ringed 22-30 Nov and others seen; 1 ringed 5 Dec.

1972: 18 ringed 29 Nov-5 Dec, and 5 others later in Dec; many of these were in the Lodge building at night.

1973: 9 ringed 24 Nov-1 Dec, and 1 on 12 Dec.

1974: 46 ringed 12-25 Nov, and singles on 7 and 20 Dec.

1975: 33 ringed 12 Nov-1 Dec, and singles on 8 and 10 Dec. Last seen on 13 Dec.

This is a relatively early passage bird at Ngulia, where there are rather few records from December and none from January (GCB, DJP).

We suspect that this species is widespread in the northern winter in north-east Kenya, but know of no recent records from there.

IRANIA GUTTURALIS Irania (or White-throated Robin)

Tsavo: common each year (71-76) during December and early January. Birds also appear in rain during November. Only a few remain in the Park throughout Feb and March. Singles were ringed at Mtito Andei 11 Mar 74 and at Voi 27 Feb 76. Passage is usually is usually recorded at Voi at the end of Mar/early Apr (DJP, PL). Common around 1200 m in dry scrub bordering cultivation on the southeast slopes of the Taitas, 28 Feb 76 (DJP).

At Ngulia Lodge, considerable numbers have appeared at night each late autumn with ringing records as follows:

1971: 21 Nov-7 Dec, 10 ringed.

1972/73: 29 Nov-7 Jan, 49 ringed.

1973/74: recorded 11 Nov-3 Feb, 50 ringed.

1974/75: 13 Nov-14 Jan, 177 ringed.

1975/76: 26 Nov-6 Jan, 88 ringed.

Regularly still appearing at the Lodge late in the season.

Other records: Serengeti, T, 21 and 23 Jan 71 (DAT); 1 Olduvai, T, 14 Feb 75 (DAT); 1 Samburu, 6 Nov 74 and 1, 7 Dec 72 (DAT); 2 Namanga, 8 Jan 74 (DJP).

At Kariobangi, Nairobi, mainly on spring passage: 1-2, 10-17 Apr 73, 1 ringed 28 Dec 73 retrapped there 7 Feb 74; others ringed 16 Feb and 10 Mar 74, were presumed winterers; up to 3 regularly 30 Mar-13 Apr 74; 1 31 Mar 75; singles 2 Apr and 5 Apr 76 (DJP, GCB).

LUSCINIA LUSCINIA Sprosser

This is a common passage migrant in eastern Kenya from late Oct to Dec, the earliest recent record we know of being from Tsavo East, 11 Oct 75 (PL).

There are the following records of birds apparently wintering:

near Mtito Andei: at least 6 seen and heard singing 13 Feb 73 (see *EANHS Bulletin* 1973: 140). Seen and heard at the same site 11 Mar 74, 7 Apr 74 and 17 Feb 75. One at Kibwesi, 13 Feb 73 (DJP).

Relatively scarce on spring passage. A few records from the Voi area, late March/early April 75 and 76 (PL, DJP). Common in the coastal scrub at Watamu 9-15 Apr 76 where 8 were ringed (DJP); still present at Ras Ngomeni 20-22 Apr 76 (JS). Present most springs around Nairobi. DJP has the following records: 1 Athi R., 6 Apr 71; 1, 1 Apr 73 and 2, 3 Apr 73, Athi R.; up to 3-4 regularly Kariobangi, 4-19 Apr 73; 5+, Mathare Valley, 15-16 Apr 73; 1 Kariobangi 26 Mar 74; up to 3 there 3-17 Apr 75; up to 4 there 26 Mar-8 Apr 76; up to 4+ Chiromo 1-8 Apr 76; 1 Kabete, 11 Apr 76 (BSM).

PHOENICURUS PHOENICURUS Redstart

1 Bungoma, 24 Dec 71 (HB); 1 ringed Nakuru, 7 Jan 72 (DJP) and one there on 27 Mar 74 (BSM, JKW, DW); 1 Naivasha, 24 Dec 73 (DJP); 1 heard in *Commiphora* woodland at Voi, 5 Jan 76 (DJP); 1 Kajiado, 13 Jan 76 (DJP).

MOTACILLA ALBA White Wagtail

One Lake Manyara, 23 Jan 69, believed to be the first record for Tanzania (DAT).

FICEDULA HYPOLEUCA/ALBICOLLIS Pied/Collared Flycatcher

One Lavington (Nairobi) garden, 14-18 Oct 74, believed immature *albicollis* (DAT). Two Kakamega, 31 Oct 74 in forest canopy (DAT).

LIST OF OBSERVERS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

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